

**Remarks**

Claims 18 and 25 are pending. Support for claim 25 is found, for example, on pages 10-12 of the specification.

In the Office Action dated May 1, 2003, the Examiner states that claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Luo et al. In addressing Applicant's previous arguments, the Examiner states that "treating pain is encompassed by the instant claim's preamble: 'a method for the treatment of peripheral nerve damage in a subject in need of such treatment...' when such pain is the result of peripheral nerve damage (axotomy.)"

Applicants respectfully traverse. In Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary, the term "treatment" is defined as "1. The act or manner of treating. 2. Medical application of remedies so as to effect a cure." The Examiner has extended the definition of treating to encompass the treatment of pain. However, as clearly defined in the dictionary, treatment in the sense of a medical application relates to effecting a cure, not merely treating pain. Since the only effect taught by Luo et al. is a reduction in pain, Luo et al. does not anticipate claim 18.

New claim 25 recites a treatment not found in Luo et al., namely, nerve regeneration. There is no teaching (or suggestion) in Luo et al. that any nerve regeneration occurred in their model. In the Luo and Wiesenfeld-Hall reference, rats were taken, anaesthetized, and their brains removed and spinal cords cut through. The sciatic nerve in the leg of the rats was then exposed and cut. According to Luo, this normally results in a "...brief barrage of activity in the injured axons, lasting for a few minutes. This intense, brief afferent input to the spinal cord induces a prolonged period of hyperexcitability, expressed as facilitation of the flexor reflex." (p.

161, first paragraph). The purpose of the experiments in the Luo paper was to determine the effect of compounds which were known to inhibit excitatory neuropeptides (compound CV-96,345 and MEN 10,376). The effect of galanin on that reference was also determined. There is not, however, any indication in Luo that the severed sciatic nerves were regenerated by the supply of galanin and galanin agonists. Thus, Luo et al. does not teach or suggest every element of the claimed invention, and therefore, does not anticipate claim 25.

Applicants therefore request removal of this basis for rejection and allowance of claims 18 and 25 to issue.

Pursuant to the above amendments and remarks, consideration and allowance of the pending application is believed warranted. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to directly contact the undersigned if such contact may enhance the efficient prosecution of this application to issue.

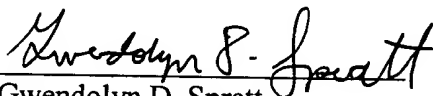
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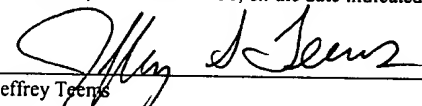
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